

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, PL, RP

SUBJ: PHILIPPINES SIGNS TRADE TREATY WITH POLAND

1. PRESS GAVE PROMINENT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO STORY THAT THE PHILIPPINES CONCLUDED ON FEBRUARY 12 A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH POLAND. SIGNING FOR THE PHILIPPINES WAS SECRETARY OF TRADE TROADIO QUIAZON, JR., AND FOR POLAND, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE AND SHIPPING TADEVSZ ZYLKOWSKI.

2. AFTER THE SIGNING CEREMONY THE TWO OFFICIALS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH ZYLKOWSKI STRESSED THE AVAILABILITY OF POLISH SHIPPING AT COMPETITIVE FRIEGHT RATES. HE SAID THAT A POLISH SHIPPING DELEGATION WILL BE SENT TO MANILA TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR POLISH SHIPPING SERVICES TO THE PHILIPPINES.

3. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES MOST FAVORED NATION TREATMENT IN SHIPPING, TRADE PAYMENTS, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. IT ALSO ESTABLISHES A JOINT COMMISSION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS. BOTH GOVERNMENTS ALSO AGREED TO EXCHANGE TRADE REPRESENTATIVES.

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4. COMMENT. THIS IS THE THIRD PHILIPPINE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE FIRST TWO BEING WITH BULGARIA AND ROMANIA. IT IS PART OF THE PATTERN WHICH THE GOP IS FOLLOWING OSTENSIBLY TO DIVERSIFY ITS MARKETS AS WELL AS TO PURSUE A BROADER FOREIGN POLICY CONSONANT WITH ITS THIRD WORLD ASPIRATIONS. SECRETARY QUIAZON TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE NEXT AGREEMENT WOULD BE WITH EITHER HUNGARY OR YUGOSLAVIA. MEMBER OF GOP DELEGATION TOLD EMBOFF PHILIPPINES IMPRESSED BY POLES WHO WERE CONCILIATORY, POLITE, ETC., AND SEEMED REGARD THIS AS WELCOME CHANGE FROM ATTITUDES OF ROMANIANS AND BULGARIANS. SULLIVAN

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